

Welcome to the Legislative Update for January 14, 2011

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. It is our intent to offer this e-newsletter weekly when the state legislature is in session. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

Monday, January 10th marked the start of the 1st Regular Session of the 50th Arizona State Legislature. In deference to the past weekend's tragedy in Tucson, the legislature and the Governor chose to focus attention on those involved in that event; the State of the State address was provided later in the week.

To access the Governor's State of the State address and remarks provided at Wednesday's Tucson event, go to: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/> and click on the links under *Latest News*.

Bipartisan support for SB 1101 resulted in the bill being passed unanimously in both houses and sent to the Governor for signature this week. SB 1101, signed by the Governor on Wednesday, creates a barrier between picketers and any location of a funeral or burial service.

The bill can be found at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/50leg/1r/bills/sb1101p.pdf>

Budget:

The Governor's 2012 budget plan is now posted at:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/Budbooks.asp>.

The Joint Legislative Budget Committee has posted *FY 2011 and FY 2011 JLBC Baseline January 14, 2011 report* at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/11-12baselineestimates.pdf> and one-page summary at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/12book1/fy12summary.pdf>.

The *December 2010 JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights* report can be found at: <http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-dec-10.pdf>

STATE LEGISLATION:

At the end of day five, 354 bills posted; one passed, one signed, and 31 memorials or resolutions posted. Several of the bills may be of interest to Arizona seniors and will be tracked by the Council and appear on the Legislative Update web page. Please be advised that the presence of a bill

on the Council's tracking list does not represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

At this time, both the House and the Senate are adjourned until Tuesday, January 18, 2011.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=24635&listid=43827&print=true>

Note: The FULL LIST website link above provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *This list will continue to be edited and expanded as we have an opportunity to get through all of the bills. We will add new bills to the list on a regular basis until all bills have been posted.* Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the *Arizona Capitol Times*.

If you have a particular perspective to share with the administration or the legislature, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-1318 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 or you may contact the legislator from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the Arizona State Legislature website <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

Update on S.3036

National Alzheimer's Project Act was signed by the President on 1/4/2011.

H.R.103

Health Care Choices for Seniors Act

H.R. 103 was introduced on 1/5/2011 by Representative Marsha Blackburn (TN-7)

Health Care Choices for Seniors Act –

Amends title II (Old Age, Survivor's and Disability Insurance) (OASDI) of the Social Security Act (SSA) to require the Secretary of Health and Human

Services to establish a procedure under which an individual otherwise entitled to benefits under part A (Hospital Insurance) of SSA title XVIII (Medicare) may waive such entitlement and be automatically enrolled in the Medicare Alternative Voucher Program (MAV Program).

Directs the Secretary to establish the MAV Program, under which a voucher may be used as a contribution into a health savings account and for the payment of enrollment premiums under a high deductible health plan.

Amends the Internal Revenue Code to increase the amount of the itemized deduction for health savings accounts by the amount of the MAV that is contributed to an individual's health savings account.

Suspends Medicare late enrollment penalties for an individual between ages 65 and 70.

On 1/5/2011, the bill was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce;

If you want more information specific to any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*. Did you know? You can access the latest legislative activities and visit congressional schedules and calendars under *Current Activity* on the Thomas homepage.

Contact Your Congressional Member. If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting: <http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

Other News:

Administration on Aging (AoA) - has announced that *the theme for Older Americans Month in May 2011 is Older Americans: Connecting the Community*.

Also: According to AoA - PBS will air the new documentary, *Over 90 and Loving It*, which features real stories of people in their 90s and 100s, in early 2011. For more information: <http://www.over90film.com/>

The National Council on Aging (NCOA) announced it is conducting a pilot project in collaboration with U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the National Reverse Mortgage Lenders Association (NRMLA) to help reverse mortgage borrowers who are struggling to pay property taxes and homeowners insurance. For more information:

http://www.ncoa.org/press-room/press-release/ncoa-teams-with-hud-and-nrmla.html?utm_source=NCOAWeek_110111&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=NCOAWeek

National Institutes of Health January 2011 newsletter features information on the "Aging Eyes". For more information, go to:
<http://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/Jan2011/Feature1>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good holiday weekend!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging